

E-Filed 8/7/13

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

GEORGE MOTA VENTURA,

No. C 10-0762 RS (PR)

Petitioner,

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

v.

JAMES A. YATES, Warden,

Respondent.

INTRODUCTION

Petitioner seeks federal habeas relief from his state convictions. Respondent filed a motion to dismiss as untimely the petition for such relief. The Court granted this unopposed motion. The action was reopened pursuant to a motion by petitioner. The judgment and the order of dismissal were vacated, the motion to dismiss was reinstated, and petitioner filed an opposition. For the reasons discussed herein, respondent's motion (Docket No. 17) is GRANTED. The petition is DISMISSED.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

Federal habeas petitions must be filed within one year of the latest of the date on which: (1) the judgment became final after the conclusion of direct review or the time passed

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1 for seeking direct review; (2) an impediment to filing an application created by
2 unconstitutional state action was removed, if such action prevented petitioner from filing; (3)
3 the constitutional right asserted was recognized by the Supreme Court, if the right was newly
4 recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactive to cases on collateral review; or (4)
5 the factual predicate of the claim could have been discovered through the exercise of due
6 diligence. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1). “[W]hen a petitioner fails to seek a writ of certiorari
7 from the United States Supreme Court, the AEDPA’s one-year limitations period begins to
8 run on the date the ninety-day period defined by Supreme Court Rule 13 expires.” *Bowen v.*
9 *Roe*, 188 F.3d 1157, 1159 (9th Cir. 1999).

10 **B. Timeliness of the Petition**

11 Petitioner’s conviction became final on May 24, 2005, when the time expired for
12 filing for United States Supreme Court review of the state supreme court’s denial of his
13 petition for direct review. Petitioner, then, had until May 25, 2006 to file a timely federal
14 habeas petition. The instant petition was filed on February 23, 2010, well after the May 25,
15 2006 deadline. On this record, absent statutory or equitable tolling, the petition is barred by
16 AEDPA’s statute of limitations and must be dismissed.

17 **1. Statutory Tolling**

18 Petitioner filed his first state habeas petition on August 5, 2008, which was after the
19 May 25, 2006 federal habeas filing deadline. For purposes of statutory tolling, the time
20 during which a properly filed application for state post-conviction or other collateral review
21 is pending is excluded from the one-year limitations period. *See* § 2244(d)(2).

22 Petitioner is not entitled to statutory tolling. A state habeas petition, here that of
23 August 5, 2008, which was filed after AEDPA’s statute of limitations ended, cannot toll the
24 limitation period. *See Ferguson v. Palmateer*, 321 F.3d 820, 823 (9th Cir. 2003). Section
25 2244(d)(2) cannot “revive” the limitation period once it has run (i.e., restart the clock to
26 zero); it can only serve to pause a clock that has not yet fully run. “Once the limitations
27 period is expired, collateral petitions can no longer serve to avoid a statute of limitations.”
28

1 *Rashid v. Kuhlmann*, 991 F. Supp. 254, 259 (S.D.N.Y. 1998). Because petitioner filed his
2 first state habeas petition after the filing date for a federal habeas petition, he is not entitled to
3 statutory tolling. Absent equitable tolling, the petition must be dismissed.

4 **2. Equitable Tolling**

5 In his opposition, petitioner asserts that he is entitled to equitable tolling. His reasons
6 are that (1) he is inexperienced in the law, has limited education, had limited access to the
7 prison libraries and to his legal papers, and that (2) trial and appellate counsels rendered
8 ineffective assistance.

9 A petitioner is entitled to equitable tolling “only if he shows ‘(1) that he has been
10 pursuing his rights diligently, and (2) that some extraordinary circumstance stood in his way’
11 and prevented timely filing.” *Holland v. Florida*, 130 S. Ct. 2549, 2562 (2010) (quoting
12 *Pace v. DiGuglielmo*, 544 U.S. 408, 418 (2005)); *Miles v. Prunty*, 187 F.3d 1104, 1107 (9th
13 Cir. 1999) (“When external forces, rather than a petitioner’s lack of diligence, account for the
14 failure to file a timely claim, equitable tolling of the statute of limitations may be
15 appropriate.”)

16 Petitioner has not shown that he is entitled to the extraordinary relief of equitable
17 tolling. As to his first reason, his lack of legal sophistication is not itself an extraordinary
18 circumstance warranting equitable tolling, *see Raspberry v. Garcia*, 448 F.3d 1150, 1154
19 (9th Cir. 2006); *see also Majoy v. Roe*, 296 F.3d 770, 776 n.3 (9th Cir. 2002). He has made
20 no factual showing of his general lack of education. Also, his allegations regarding limited
21 access to prison libraries are conclusory and lack sufficient detail. Specifically, he does not
22 state how much library time he was allowed, or whether he used such time, though he admits
23 he had law library access as of 2004, two years before the federal filing deadline. Though he
24 alleges that he was never informed about AEDPA’s filing deadline, he does not allege that
25 the prison libraries lacked such information.

26 His allegations that his legal paperwork had been sent to his family are also
27 insufficient. He does not state whether he attempted to regain possession of his legal papers,
28 exactly what these legal papers were, and that they were necessary or even helpful in

1 pursuing relief. *Chaffer v. Prosper*, 592 F.3d 1046, 1049 (9th Cir. 2010).

2 As to his second reason, petitioner alleges that appellate counsel failed to raise claims
3 of ineffective assistance of counsel, and then “abandoned” him after filing a petition for
4 review in the state supreme court. These allegations are insufficient to warrant equitable
5 tolling. First, they are conclusory. Petitioner fails to detail in any way how trial counsel was
6 ineffective, and thereby also fails to show why appellate counsel should have raised claims
7 regarding such alleged ineffectiveness. Second, appellate counsel was appointed by the state
8 to assist him during direct state judicial review of his convictions, not to aid in the filing of a
9 federal petition.

10 In sum, petitioner’s allegations fail to provide sufficient reason justifying the
11 extraordinary relief of equitable tolling. Specifically, he fails to give sufficient justification
12 for the three-year delay between the date his convictions became final and the filing of his
13 first state habeas petition. He also fails to account sufficiently for the nearly five-year delay
14 between the date his convictions became final and the filing of the instant federal habeas
15 petition.

16 CONCLUSION

17 For the reasons stated above, respondent’s motion to dismiss the petition as untimely
18 (Docket No. 17) is GRANTED. Accordingly, the action is DISMISSED.

19 A certificate of appealability will not issue. Petitioner has not shown “that jurists of
20 reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a
21 constitutional right and that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the district court
22 was correct in its procedural ruling.” *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). The
23 Clerk shall enter judgment in favor of respondent, terminate Docket No. 17, and close the
24 file.

25 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

26 DATED: August 7, 2013

27 
28 RICHARD SEEBORG
United States District Judge